



WIC MIS/EBT Implementation Subproject

February 2014 Update

With conclusion of our Implementation Planning phase in January, the team and contractors began Design phase in February. Ciber is working on the Detailed Functional Design Document (DFDD), with completion and first review targeted for the end of March 2014.

The EBT contract with JP Morgan Chase was cancelled at the end of February, as we announced earlier. (Vermont WIC was not alone; JPMC publicly announced they were attempting to sell their pre-paid debit and EBT card business, and exercised contract cancellations for other EBT projects in early stages also.) This cancellation does not affect the 3SquaresVT/SNAP EBT contract currently held by JPMC, which provides the platform for our WIC EBT fruit and veggie card. During February, Vermont WIC explored all options available to us for speedily replacing JPMC with another EBT host contractor, with the hope we can mitigate any project delays. We hope to have news on this front before the end of March.

The Readiness Coordinator Network members completed their site assessments to help determine whether data ports and power outlets will be sufficient for the new system, and to provide an inventory of IT equipment current assigned to WIC clinics. Outreach clinics (formerly known as outlying clinics) will be assessed for wireless signals and internet access over the next three months.

The Readiness Coordinator Network webpage was reorganized in response to the RCN effectiveness survey feedback. The site now provides easy access to the materials and information that has been accumulated and produced over the past 18 months, including seminars on the new MIS system and to WIC EBT, and a comprehensive FAQ. The public may access all of the information at <http://healthvermont.gov/wic/ReadinessCoordinatorNetwork.aspx>

Our WIC colleagues in Massachusetts have announced they will be going to pilot on their online EBT system later this summer. We contacted our grocery chains that also operate in MA, and learned to our delight that they will be "e-WIC ready" for Massachusetts in time of the pilot. That will shorten the time we in Vermont will need to work with our grocer chain stores to ensure they are VT WIC ready. We'll need to run short tests, rather than full-blown system certification testing, as their systems will already have been certified for online WIC by Massachusetts.

If you have questions about the project, please be in touch with us by email at wic@state.vt.us.